first download request is accepted from the user's computer including the identification information of the user's computer and second system configuration information collected by the user's computer system in order to indicate hardware components of the user's computer system. The stored identification information of the user's computer is associated with the first system configuration information indicating the hardware components of the user's computer system. A latest version of the device drivers required for operation of each of the hardware components of the user's computer system based on both the stored first system configuration information associated with the accepted identification information and the accepted second configuration information is identified. A download list according to the identified latest version of the device drives is created and sent to the user's computer system. In response to a second download request, each of the latest versions of the device drivers is sent to the user's computer. The first system configuration information is updated with the second system configuration information. As a result, the method of claim 1 enables device driver recovery if a problem occurs on a user's computer, for example.

Each of independent claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 16 are amended similarly to claim 1. Support for the amendments to the independent claims is provided in the Specification and drawings with reference to Figures 3 and 6, page 11, lines 18 to line 3 on page 12 and on page 15, line 10 to page 16, line 3, for example.

Philyaw is relied upon for anticipating claims 1-8, 11 and 16-23. However, Philyaw does not anticipate the claims, as amended by the foregoing amendments. In particular, Philyaw discloses a computer or computer peripherals having one or more machine-

resolvable codes (MRCs) associated therewith. A user reads one of the machine-resolvable codes with a reader, such as wand 1600 shown in Fig. 25. In response, a transaction code related to the MRC, and associated with a type of configuration information, is assembled into a message packet having routing information appended thereto. The appended routing information is the network address of an intermediate vendor reference server 2500 having a database 2502 which cross-references the transaction information with a network address of the associated configuration information. The network address of the configuration information is obtained, and connection is made to that location to retrieve the configuration information to the computer or computer peripheral, and/or non-computer-related equipment for installation. See col. 48, lines 41-47 of the reference.

In the embodiment disclosed by Philyaw related to Automatic Configuration Of Computer Equipment, a system shown in Figure 25 includes a wand 1600 connected to a user's PC 302 that is used to send data to a vendor web server (VWS). The wand 1600 can scan an MRC 1606 in order to obtain configuration information about the product. The VWS contains information including user profile information so that when the wand 1600 scans a MRC 1606, the data packet assembled by software running on the user PC 302 is directed to the VRS 2500, which performs a look up operation. After the lookup operation, the requested configuration information indicated by the transaction code of the MRC 1606 is returned to the PC 302 and installed on either the user PC and/or the hardware peripheral. See column 25, line 41 – column 26, line 9 of the reference.

Fig. 36 of Philyaw shows a sample database structure for the equipment configuration embodiment. The VRS database 2502 contains a transaction code 3600, a device address 3602, and a VWS address 3604. When the user scans the MRC 3406 (Fig. 34) containing encoded transaction code 3600, a lookup operation is performed on the VRS database 2502 to retrieve the VWS network address 3604. A message packet is then assembled with the device address 3602 and VWS address 3604 to ultimately execute the configuration file for the particular transaction code 3600. The configuration file can then be transmitted to the piece of equipment 3400 in accordance with the device address 3602, or be executed by the VWS 2504 to control the configuration process of the piece of equipment 3400. In any case, a user interface may be provided to allow the user to interact with the configuration process, or the process can be performed automatically without user interaction after the scanning process. The VRS database 2502 is populated with the transaction code 3600, device address 3602, and VWS address 3604 information at the time the user obtains the piece of equipment 3400. See col. 47, lines , lines 29-51. Philyaw anticipates that the piece of equipment will undergo changes in its network locations (device address change), so the VRS database 2502 will need to be updated to facilitate the automatic configuration process. In the claimed invention, however, the updated information is the second information that is collected by the computer to identify hardware components of the computer system, for example added by the user in addition to those identified in the stored first system configuration information that is stored when the computer is built.